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University of Montana harriers face toughest opponent of the season

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UM HARRIERS FACE TOUGHEST OPPONENT OF THE SEASON

MISSOULA---

"We've got the best cross-country team in the history of the University of Montana and if we're to beat Idaho State, this is the year," Harley Lewis said Thursday looking ahead to Saturday's duel meet with the Bengals at the UM Golf Course.

The Grizzly coach said, "We've never beaten Idaho State in track or cross country, but last Saturday's performances showed our men are improving rapidly and have the desire to win."

"We feel the trio of Jacobsen, Friesz and Valez are as good or better than any in the Northwest," Lewis exclaimed, "and they proved it last Saturday when they placed ahead of Washington State's top three in Moscow."

Gerry Lindgren of WSU won the race with a blistering 19:33 clocking with Wade Jacobsen of Montana just inches behind Benson, also of WSU, who finished second. Friesz took fifth and Valez seventh with the third WSU thinclad, Rick Riley, taking 11th.

The Cougars have potentially the best cross country team in the nation and ended up beating the Grizzlies in total points 35-55. There were eleven teams competing in the Moscow Invitational.

"Wade darn near beat Benson, who placed tenth in the 1965 NCAA Cross Country Meet and Frèd Freisz ran 40 second faster than he ever ran on that course," the Grizzly mentor said. "Ray Valez also turned in a fine performance and ran much faster than he ever has. In general all the men came through with good times," he stated.

Lewis said the meet Saturday will be the toughest of the season as the Bengals have most of their harriers back from last year's conference championship team. Not only

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do they have most of their veterans back but they have a freshman from Nigeria who runs a fine mile.

Idaho State also has a great distance ace in Roger Maxfield who finished second behind Doug Brown in the 1966 Big Sky Conference Meet. Maxfield has been running very well thus far this season and will be tough to beat Saturday.

Lewis's Grizzlies lead the conference with a 2-0 record after defeating Weber and Idaho in their first two outings. Idaho State tied Idaho in their first meet and the Vandal freshman star, Pete Witford, took Maxfield in the four-mile race.

The meet Saturday begins at 11 a.m. covering over four-miles at the University Golf Course.